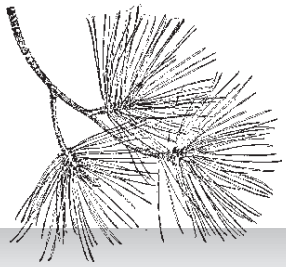

# Environmental Bulletin

Volume 14, Number 1
January 22, 2003

from the Savannah River Site


*Public Invited to Comment*

# Remedial Approach Proposed for TNX

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on January 22, 2003 describing the proposed remedial approach for the TNX Operable Unit (OU) at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. The plan and draft permit modification will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for January 22, to March 7, 2003. These documents were completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and RCRA, laws governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region IV (EPA) and SCDHEC to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

Public Information and Public Involvement activities are conducted throughout the various phases of the cleanup process. Public comment periods are held to receive oral and written comments from the public on proposed remedial plans and actions. In addition, as required by RCRA/CERCLA, the opportunity for public meetings, hearings, and briefings is made available during the remedial process and as requested by the public.

The TNX OU is situated in the southwestern portion of SRS, approximately one quarter-mile east of the Savannah River. The TNX OU consists of four major subunits:

1.) The New TNX Seepage Basin (NTSB)/Inactive Process Sewer Line (IPSL) is an unlined earthen basin approximately 260 by 400 ft. in size. The NTSB is comprised of an inlet basin, main basin, overflow discharge area, and an inactive process sewer line

2.) The TNX Burying Ground and Vadose Zone is comprised of an area from ground surface to the water table under the TNX facility.

3.) The Old TNX Seepage Basin (OTSB) was an unlined earthen basin approximately 80 by 175 ft. in size and 7 to 9 ft. deep. The OTSB includes an inactive process sewer line and an upper discharge gully.

4.) The TNX Groundwater.

The first groundwater monitoring wells were installed in the TNX Area in 1980. These wells were determined to be inadequate and were abandoned and replaced in 1984. Subsequent wells were installed for monitoring and characterization purposes. Groundwater sampling data from existing wells indicate that operational activities resulted in groundwater contamination throughout the TNX Area.

The DOE, EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated cleanup alternatives. The three agencies are recommending the following actions for the TNX operable unit:

**New TNX Seepage Basin/Inactive Process Sewer Line (IPSL)**

- In situ grouting of the IPSL
- No action for the soils surrounding the IPSL
- Discharge of surface water in the seepage basin to an approved location (ground surface, permitted outfall, or wastewater treatment facility)
- Backfill of the main basin and inlet basin with clean soil
- Long term management under institutional controls

*(continued on page 2)*

## *Remedial Approach Proposed for TNX* *(continued from page 1)*

**TNX Burying Ground and Vadose Zone**

- Installation and operation of an active and passive soil vapor extraction system in the TNX Vadose Zone

**Old TNX Seepage Basin/IPSL and Upper Discharge Gully**

- Removal of existing OTSB backfill
- Excavation of IPSL (where accessible) and associated radiologically contaminated soils for disposal
- Capping of the ends of IPSL sections not excavated during this action
- Excavation of the Principal Threat Source Material (PTSM) layer in the OTSB
- Disposal of PTSM-contaminated soils and pipeline at an approved disposal facility
- Backfill of pipeline and replacement of asphalt
- Backfill of the OTSB
- Placement of engineered soil cover (and associated institutional controls) over the OTSB and upper discharge gully
- Monitoring of the subsurface for the presence of perched water in contact with waste, which may exceed regulatory limits under the soil cover

**TNX Groundwater**

- Extract volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the high concentration areas
- Continued operation of the existing pump-and-treat system until a groundwater assessment determines that passive remediation (mixing zone) is appropriate
- Monitored natural attenuation and institutional controls

These alternatives will be protective of human health and the environment.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by March 7, 2003. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record, which also contains the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report for these units. The administrative record is available in the following information repositories:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the ROD are available at the following locations:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan is also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under (http://www.srs.gov), under "Happening Now," (http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, under "Public Involvement," (http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html).

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modification/s are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803)896-4000
or
SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

*(continued on page 3)*

## *Remedial Approach Proposed for TNX*

*(continued from page 2)*

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments or requests for public hearings on the draft RCRA permit modification should be sent to:

SCDHEC
Attn.: John Litton, P.E., Director
Division of Hazardous and Infectious Waste Mgt.
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 896-4000

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and requests for public meetings may be sent to:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29802
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

## Public Invited to Learn More About SRS

The public is invited to attend all meetings of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) and associated committees. The CAB is comprised of a nonpartisan group of individuals who are independent of federal, state and local government organizations. As members of the public, they review issues and provide informed and timely recommendations concerning decisions that affect SRS. The board has several issues-based committees that meet separately from the full board meetings including the:
*Administrative Committee*
*Environmental Restoration Committee*
*Long Term Stewardship Committee*
*Nuclear Materials Committee*
*Strategic Initiatives Committee*
*Waste Management Committee*

For more information or if you wish to be notified of the schedule for CAB and CAB committee meetings, contact:
Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29802
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

# Modification to the Temporary F Area Base Injection Pilot Test Requested

The Department of Energy (DOE) at the Savannah River Site has requested from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) a modification to the temporary authorization for the F Area Base Injection Pilot Test.

The modification proposes an increase in the amount of base solution injected at the pilot test. This increase is necessary to establish a stable pH of 5 in the groundwater. More information can be available by contacting:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29802
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

## Mark Your Calendar For Upcoming SRS CAB Meetings

***March 24 - 25, 2003***
Sheraton Augusta Hotel
2651 Perimeter Parkway
Augusta, GA

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***May 19 - 20, 2003***
Hyatt Regency Hotel
#2 West Bay Street
Savannah, GA

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***July 21 - 22, 2003***
Adams Mark Columbia
1200 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC

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**Building 742-A**
**Aiken, S.C. 29808**

The SRS Environmental Bulletin
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Building 742-A
Aiken, S.C. 29808

# The SRS Environmental Bulletin

**For more information on this or other environmental and compliance activities at SRS, please contact:**


**Jim Moore**
**Westinghouse**
**Savannah River Co.**
**Aiken, S.C. 29808**
**(800) 249-8155**
**mail:** jim02.moore@srs.gov

**Lyddie Broussard**
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**Public Involvement e-**
**(803) 725-7169**